

Five KY Tech machine tool technology programs become NIMS accredited

KY Tech students earn 168 NIMS credentials

Five KY Tech machine tool technology programs recently became accredited by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). The accreditation means each program received a statement of approval that the curriculum and training program meets the industry's standards. NIMS accreditation is valid for five years and the following KY Tech programs are accredited until 2016:

- *Barren Co. ATC – Wesley Sneed, instructor*
- *Harrison Co. ATC – Robert Burns, instructor*
- *Madison Co. ATC – Justin Phelps, instructor*
- *Shelby Co. ATC – Michael Clark, instructor*
- *Webster Co. ATC – Don Herrin, instructor*



National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc.

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***Justin Phelps
Madison Co. ATC instructor:***

“The program being accredited means that we are moving forward to better serve our students and community.

“It also provides us with an avenue for our machine tool technology students to meet the new career readiness accountability model because they can satisfy the industry certification requirement through NIMS.

At left: Phelps explains a measurement concept to one of his students, Brent Colwell.



According to its website, (<https://www.nims-skills.org/web/nims/home>), “The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) is the nation’s only American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited developer of precision manufacturing skill standards and competency assessments. Additionally, NIMS certifies individual skills against standards and accredits programs that meet its quality requirements. NIMS stakeholders represent over 6,000 American companies.”

NIMS Mission Statement

"To strengthen American manufacturing by building a globally competitive metalworking workforce."

At right: Middle school students touring the machine tool technology program at the KY Tech-Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC.



Terry Miller, OCTE manufacturing technology academic consultant, is responsible for tracking KY Tech machine tool technology program accreditation. The process to accredit a program includes the following:

- Step 1: Submit a one page application for accreditation to NIMS (<https://www.nims-skills.org/web/nims/5>) by fax or email. NIMS will send the instructor a Self-Study Kit.
- Step 2: Instructors must complete the Self-Study Kit within an 18 month timeframe and return a copy to NIMS.
- Step 3: An evaluation team (composed of three persons appointed by NIMS) will conduct a two day On-Site Evaluation. Accreditation will be awarded pending the team's review of the program and facility.



Miller:

"It's been my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with all the KY Tech machine tool instructors by helping them work toward and attain NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) program accreditation. Reaching this industry standard speaks volumes for their level of preparedness and individual accomplishment."

"I appreciate the hard work and commitment these instructors have shown in preparing their students with machining skills acceptable to nationally recognized levels. The NIMS credentials earned by their respective students have prepared them for a documented transition to the workforce. It also shows how KY Tech instructors are actively engaging their students in the mastery of academic and technical skills needed to be ready for college and a career."

Not only does NIMS accredit programs, but it has also developed skills standards in 24 operational areas, and certifies an individual's skills against the national standards. Kentucky Tech instructors have and continue to encourage their students to become NIMS certified. In addition to documenting that students have met specific skills standards, the good news is that NIMS issues credentials as proof of the industry certification. This credential will also serve as evidence that KY Tech students have met a requirement in one of the components in the new career readiness accountability model approved during the August 3, 2011 Kentucky Board of Education meeting.



Nathan Fox
KY Tech-Madison Co. ATC
Machine Tool Technology
Currently a senior and he has
just earned his first NIMS industry
certification in Measurement,
Materials & Safety.



Ashley Johnson
KY Tech-Webster Co. ATC
Machine Tool Technology
Graduated: 2011
Earned seven NIMS industry
certifications. Ashley's
achievements also include a NIMS
special award of merit.



Bradley D. West
KY Tech-Webster Co. ATC
Machine Tool Technology
Graduated: 2011
Earned six NIMS industry
certifications. West has enrolled at
Vincennes University in the John
Deere Technical Program.

During the 2010-11 school year, KY Tech machine tool technology students in the following ATC's earned 168 NIMS credentials:

- Barren County ATC – 2
- Breckinridge Co. ATC – 64
- Green Co. ATC - 1
- Harrison Co. ATC – 8
- Lake Cumberland ATC – 12
- Lincoln Co. ATC – 8
- Madison Co. ATC – 7
- Marion Co. ATC – 9
- Ohio Co. ATC -8
- Wayne Co. ATC – 12
- Webster Co. ATC – 37



The following KY Tech machine tool technology programs were previously accredited through NIMS: Belfry ATC – accredited until January 2012; Marion Co. ATC – accredited until May 2012.

The following KY Tech machine tool programs are in the accreditation renewal process - Breckinridge Co. ATC, Floyd Co. ATC, Fulton Co. ATC, Green Co. ATC, Lake Cumberland ATC, Lincoln Co. ATC, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC, Ohio Co. ATC, and Wayne Co. ATC.

OCTE consultant Terry Miller, who worked in the machine tool industry for many years and understands the importance of accreditation and certification, has worked collaboratively with Catherine Ross, NIMS director of accreditation, and received positive feedback from her about how KY Tech students did on their NIMS skills tests in comparison to other states.

Ross:

“During the 2010-11 school year alone, the nineteen machine tool programs took 202 tests, with 168 receiving passing grades. That makes for an 83% passing rate - higher than the national average! These kinds of testing numbers mean that Kentucky is joining the ranks of other states that have established a model of excellence in training to industry standards; Connecticut and Pennsylvania. That is fantastic progress.”

Manufacturing companies across the state are in need of more skilled and educated workers – including welding, industrial maintenance technology, sheet metal, and machine tool technology. Business and industry personnel are not only begging for trained students who can apply what they have learned, but also demanding it from the educational system. Kentucky Tech is doing its part to help train students for manufacturing careers through NIMS accredited programs and by offering students the opportunity to become industry certified.

This is just another example of how Kentucky Tech instructors are actively engaging all students in the mastery of academic and technical skills needed to be ready for college and a career.

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By: Fran Dundon – August 23, 2011

Office of Career and Technical Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

